

Regular Session, 2010

SENATE BILL NO. 140

BY SENATOR SHAW

HEALTH CARE. Allows anesthesiologist assistants to administer anesthesia under certain circumstances. (8/15/10)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 37:930(G), relative to the anesthetics; to provide for the authority for anesthetic assistants to administer anesthesia in certain circumstances; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 37:930(G) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§930. Anesthetics; authority to administer; penalty

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G.(1) The Louisiana Legislature hereby finds that:

(a) Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) have been selecting and administering anesthesia in Louisiana and the United States for over one hundred years.

(b) The specialty of nurse anesthesia was established in the late 1800s as the first clinical nursing specialty.

(c) Nursing took the lead in formalizing anesthesia practice as a specialty and in providing for specialty education and credentialing in anesthesia practice.

During World War I, nurse anesthetists trained both physicians and nurses to provide

1 anesthesia services both at home and abroad.

2 (d) Nurse anesthetists alone provided the overwhelming majority of  
3 anesthetics up until World War II.

4 (e) Nurse anesthetists receive rigorous clinical and academic training,  
5 requiring a bachelor's degree from an accredited school of nursing and one year of  
6 professional nursing experience in an acute care setting prior to being considered for  
7 entrance to an accredited twenty-four to thirty-six month nurse anesthesia  
8 educational program.

9 (f) CRNAs administer the majority of anesthetics in Louisiana and all of the  
10 anesthetics in many parts of the state.

11 (g) Multiple studies have demonstrated that CRNAs are safe, accessible, and  
12 cost-effective providers of anesthetics.

13 (h) CRNAs are critical providers of quality anesthesia services in the health  
14 care delivery system in this state.

15 (i) An adequate supply of CRNAs in Louisiana is vital to continued access  
16 to safe, cost-effective health care for the citizens of Louisiana.

17 ~~(j) Anesthesiologist assistants (AAs) are not presently authorized to train or  
18 practice in Louisiana and are only recognized in eight states.~~

19 ~~(k) Less than six hundred AAs exist in the United States while over thirty  
20 thousand CRNAs are licensed and authorized to practice in every state in the United  
21 States.~~

22 ~~(l) CRNAs receive a much higher level of education and training than do  
23 AAs.~~

24 ~~(m) After thirty years of existence, only two AA schools exist in the United  
25 States while there are ninety-nine CRNA schools.~~

26 ~~(n) CRNAs are trained and legally authorized to administer all types of  
27 anesthetics in all settings while AAs are limited by the type of anesthetics they can  
28 administer and the settings in which they are authorized to perform their services.~~

29 (2) It is hereby declared that CRNAs are an essential provider of safe,

1 accessible, and cost-effective anesthesia care to the citizens of Louisiana. It is  
 2 further declared that a sufficient supply of CRNAs in Louisiana is affected with the  
 3 public interest. ~~It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent to encourage a~~  
 4 ~~sufficient ongoing supply of CRNAs in this state and to discourage the creation and~~  
 5 ~~authorization of providers of anesthesia not otherwise presently trained and licensed~~  
 6 ~~to provide anesthesia. Specifically, it is the intent of the legislature to prevent the~~  
 7 ~~introduction of AAs into Louisiana until such time that they are deemed to be viable~~  
 8 ~~providers of anesthesia services. The purpose of this Subsection is to carry out that~~  
 9 ~~policy in the public interest, providing for the repeal of any provision that provides~~  
 10 ~~otherwise.~~

11 (3) No health care provider or other person, other than a certified registered  
 12 nurse anesthetist, physician, dentist, perfusionist, **an anesthesiologist assistant who**  
 13 **holds a current certification by the National Commission for the Certification**  
 14 **of Anesthesiologist Assistants,** or other explicitly authorized provider, shall select  
 15 or administer any form of anesthetic to any person either directly or by delegation  
 16 unless explicitly authorized by this Title. **However, an anesthesiologist assistant,**  
 17 **certified by the National Commission for the Certification of Anesthesiologist**  
 18 **Assistants, shall only be able to select and administer any form of anesthetic by**  
 19 **delegation and under the direct supervision of an anesthesiologist licensed by**  
 20 **the Louisiana Board of Medical Examiners.**

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Greg Waddell.

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#### DIGEST

Present law provides that no health care provider or other person, other than a certified registered nurse anesthetist, physician, dentist, perfusionist, or other explicitly authorized provider, shall select or administer any form of anesthetic to any person either directly or by delegation unless explicitly authorized by this Title.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that an anesthesiologist assistant who holds a current certification by the National Commission for the Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants shall be able to select or administer any form of anesthetic to any person either directly or by delegation unless explicitly authorized by present law.

Proposed law further provides that anesthesiologist assistant, certified by the National Commission for the Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants, shall only be able to select

and administer any form of anesthetic by delegation and under the direct supervision of an anesthesiologist licensed by the Louisiana Board of Medical Examiners.

Effective August 15, 2010.

(Amends R.S. 37:930(G))